MARVEL 004

SUPERIOR IRON MAN®

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SUPERIOR IRON MAN

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004 VARIANT EDITION

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DIRECT EDITION

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BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR

Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as the golden Avenger known as IRON MAN.

A recent battle with a mentally powered villain has altered Stark's mind. With a more arrogant and aggressive personality surfacing, Stark used San Francisco to beta test his newest invention...the Extremis 3.0 app. It can improve people's lives, making them more attractive, smarter and healthier...but it comes at a cost and not everyone can afford it. San Francisco's population is now divided into two groups—mere humans and those who are...***superior***.

Daredevil (A.K.A. Matt Murdock) tried confronting Stark about the negative effects Extremis 3.0 was having on the city, but it resulted in the blind hero being cured by the app. Murdock didn't like what he saw and has decided to stop the "superior" Stark once and for all.

CHAPTER 4: THE CHOICE

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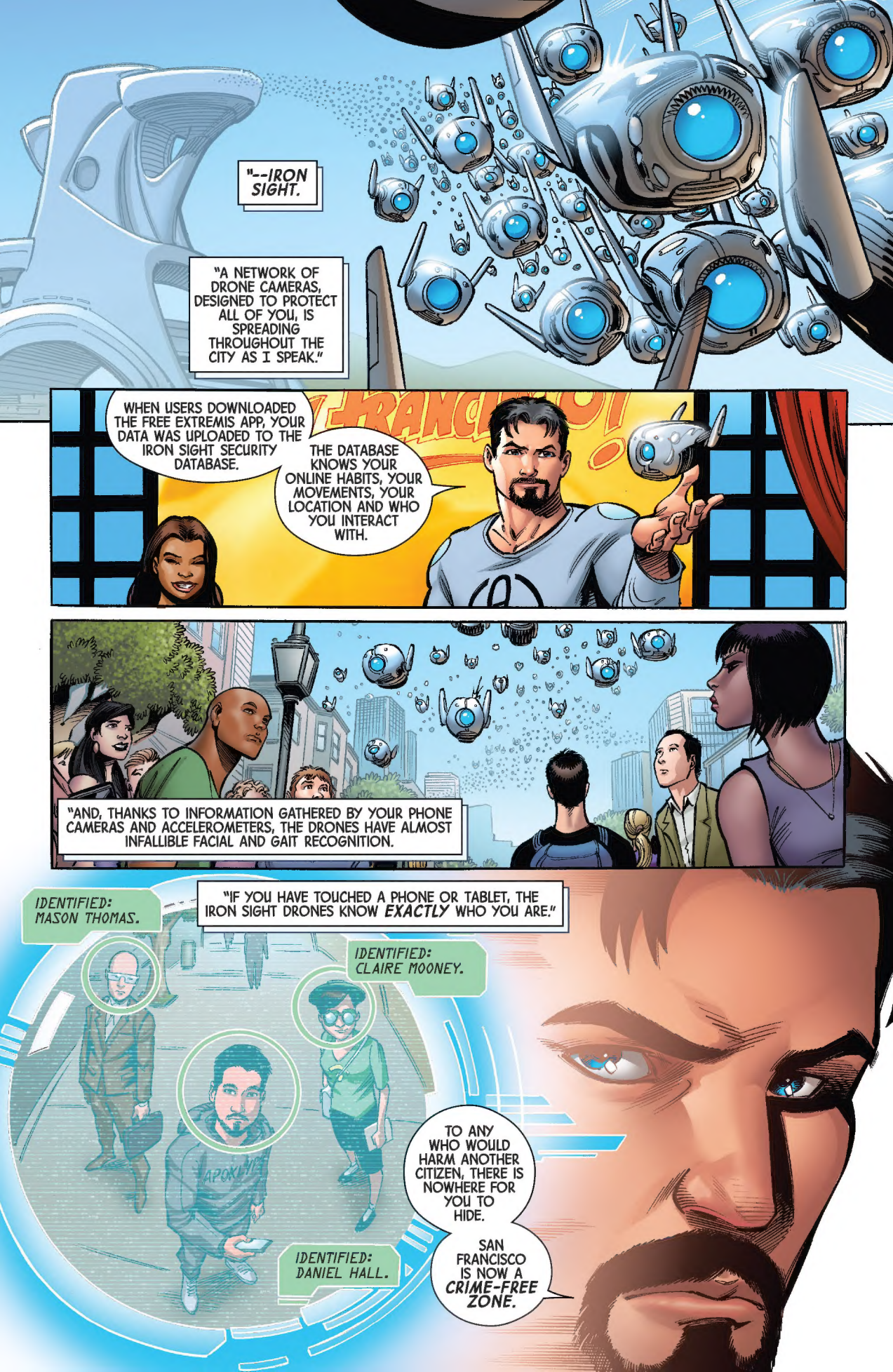
IT'S TIME TO--
--WAKE UP, SAN FRANCISCO!
Wake up SAN FRANCISCO!
HA!
THANKS, TRENT!
OUR FIRST GUEST NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION. FOR EVERYONE USING HIS INCREDIBLE EXTREMIS 3.0, HE'S THE ONLY NAME ON OUR MUCH FULLER LIPS.
HE'S A BILLIONAIRE, HE'S A PHILANTHROPIST, HE'S A VISIONARY, AND HE'S AN IRON MAN.
PLEASE WELCOME TO THE STUDIO...

TONY STARK!
WOOOOo!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLA
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
A FREE DAY OF EXTREMIS FOR THE ENTIRE STUDIO AUDIENCE.
WOOOOo!
MISTER STARK. THANK YOU FOR TAKING TEN YEARS OFF OF ME!
MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE, MANDY. AND THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO TALK ABOUT EXTREMIS 3.0 TODAY.
A FEW OF MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES HAVE POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE EXTREMIS 3.0 HAS DONE INCREDIBLE THINGS FOR MOST OF THIS CITY, IT HAS MADE SOME ACT OUT IN WAYS THAT ARE LESS THAN IDEAL.
WE HAVE SEEN SOME REGRETTABLE INSTANCES FROM THOSE WHO CANNOT ACCESS OR CANNOT AFFORD EXTREMIS 3.0.
I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE HERE TODAY THAT THIS WON'T BE A PROBLEM AGAIN.
AS THIS BROADCAST BEGAN, A NEW STARK SECURITY SYSTEM CAME ONLINE THROUGHOUT SAN FRANCISCO--

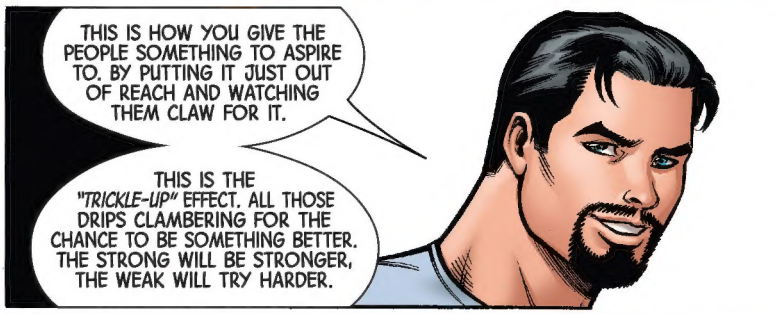

"--IRON SIGHT.
"A NETWORK OF DRONE CAMERAS, DESIGNED TO PROTECT ALL OF YOU, IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE CITY AS I SPEAK."
WHEN USERS DOWNLOADED THE FREE EXTREMIS APP, YOUR DATA WAS UPLOADED TO THE IRON SIGHT SECURITY DATABASE.
THE DATABASE KNOWS YOUR ONLINE HABITS, YOUR MOVEMENTS, YOUR LOCATION AND WHO YOU INTERACT WITH.
"AND, THANKS TO INFORMATION GATHERED BY YOUR PHONE CAMERAS AND ACCELEROMETERS, THE DRONES HAVE ALMOST INFALLIBLE FACIAL AND GAIT RECOGNITION.
"IF YOU HAVE TOUCHED A PHONE OR TABLET, THE IRON SIGHT DRONES KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE."
IDENTIFIED: MASON THOMAS.
IDENTIFIED: CLAIRE MOONEY.
IDENTIFIED: DANIEL HALL.
TO ANY WHO WOULD HARM ANOTHER CITIZEN, THERE IS NOWHERE FOR YOU TO HIDE.
SAN FRANCISCO IS NOW A CRIME-FREE ZONE.

I missed something.
Something on Canton Street, when Stark was distributing his free Extremis.
I was listening to Tony manipulate that poor father.
IDENTIFIED: MATTHEW MURDOCK. A.K.A. DAREDEVIL. TRACK AND FLAG.
But there was another sound. A wave of sound.
Almost inaudible, even to me.
HOSTILE ACTION DETECTED. EVADE.
Something I've never heard before.
The sound of all of those people downloading Extremis.
A sound...
CSSHHH
Oh, Stark--
CRSSHHH
MATTHEW MURDOCK--
--YOU HAVE DESTROYED AN IRON SIGHT DRONE. THIS IS YOUR FIRST WARNING.
NO LEGAL ACTION WILL BE PENDING AT THIS STAGE, BUT A BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO YOUR HOME. YOU ARE BOUND TO PAY THIS WITHIN--
CRCK
--I know what you've done. You bastard.

...AND THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT HOME-GROWN CRIMINALS.
THE IRON SIGHT SECURITY WEB WILL CATCH TERRORISTS, CRIMINALS, SUPER VILLAINS... ANYONE ENTERING SAN FRANCISCO WILL BE KNOWN AND RECORDED WITHIN SECONDS.
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES?

I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE NEED FOR PRIVACY. BUT IF IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND TRENT'S--FRANKLY BIZARRE--BROWSER HISTORY, THERE IS NO REAL CHOICE.
FRANCISCO!
HEH.

I INTEND TO KEEP THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS SAFE. EXTREMIS 3.0 MAKES YOU THE BEST YOU YOU CAN BE. IRON SIGHT ENSURES THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.
AND FOR THOSE WHO STILL CAN'T AFFORD THE WONDERS OF EXTREMIS?


THIS IS HOW YOU GIVE THE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO ASPIRE TO. BY PUTTING IT JUST OUT OF REACH AND WATCHING THEM CLAW FOR IT.
THIS IS THE "TRICKLE-UP" EFFECT. ALL THOSE DRIPS CLAMBERING FOR THE CHANCE TO BE SOMETHING BETTER. THE STRONG WILL BE STRONGER, THE WEAK WILL TRY HARDER.

THE APP IS NOT PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE. IT IS WITHIN YOUR REACH. BUT YOU NEED TO TAKE SOME PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
YOU NEED TO TRY HARDER. YOU NEED TO EARN MORE. YOU NEED TO BE BETTER. YOU NEED TO BE SUPERIOR.
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, SAN FRANCISCO.

I'M SORRY TO CUT THIS SHORT, MANDY, BUT SOMETHING'S COME UP--

"--TROUBLE AT HOME."
ROOOAAARGH!
STARK ISLAND.
STAND DOWN!
I DON'T WANT TO!
CLK
LAST CHANCE.
STAND. DOWN.
WHA--
CHOOM
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS.

MARIA HILL.
THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE. YOU COULD HAVE CALLED.
WE DID CALL. MANY, MANY TIMES, TONY.
THAT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE. I ACTUALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO ANSWERS MY PHONE ANYMORE.
I CAME TO SEE YOU IN PERSON BECAUSE I'M CONCERNED. WE'RE MONITORING YOU, TONY. I DON'T LIKE YOUR RECENT ACTIONS. WE NEED TO TALK.
YOU BROUGHT A LOT OF GUNS AND SOLDIERS FOR A "TALK."
YOU ARE HARBORING THE FUGITIVE KNOWN AS TEEN ABOMINATION.
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT NAME. IT'S AS RIDICULOUS AS IT IS ILL-CONCEIVED.

HE ESCAPED FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. CUSTODY, CAUSED DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ATTACKED S.H.I.E.L.D. PERSONNEL.
I WILL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE. I SAVED THE PERSONNEL.
AND I WILL SAVE THE BOY.
WHY?
I HAVE MY REASONS. BUT ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS HE'S ON AN ISLAND. HE WON'T BE HURTING ANYONE.
HE'S WANTED.
NO. HE ISN'T.
I HAD A TEAM OF STARK LAWYERS MAKE SURE THE WARRANT WAS RESCINDED OVERNIGHT.
HE--
DON'T PUSH THIS, MARIA. NOT HERE. NOT NOW. I WILL EMBARRASS YOU AND YOUR AGENTS--
--AND I WILL MAKE SURE THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHES AS IT HAPPENS.

STARK TOWER.
WELL... THAT WAS TENSE.
THEY SHOULD LEAVE YOU ALONE NOW.

NOW, IF YOU'RE STAYING HERE, THERE ARE SOME HOUSE RULES.
RULE ONE. NO TOUCHING.
WHAT?

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF FRAGILE, EXPENSIVE AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, *IRREPLACEABLE*, THINGS AROUND YOU.
YOU'RE A WALKING LUMP OF DESTRUCTION. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING.

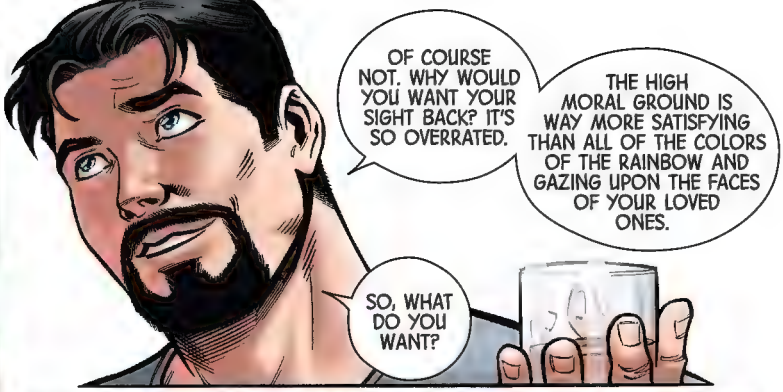
RULE TWO. NO MORE RAGE-FIGHTS. THAT ONE'S PRETTY SELF-EXPLANATORY.
RULE THREE. THERE WILL BE NO *"TEEN ABOMINATION"* IN THIS TOWER.
WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

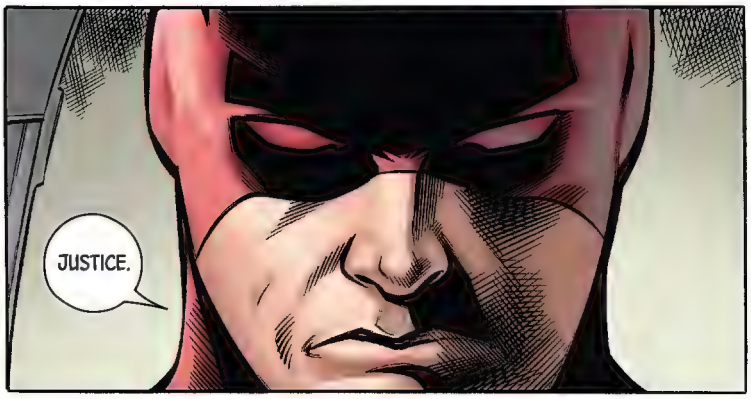
JAMIE.
YES.
REALLY?

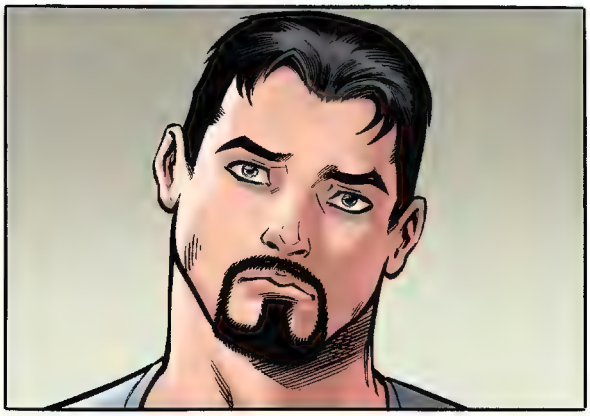
NO. I CAN'T LOOK AT YOU AND SAY *"JAMIE."*
WE'LL HAVE TO WORKSHOP SOMETHING LESS INCONGRUOUS.

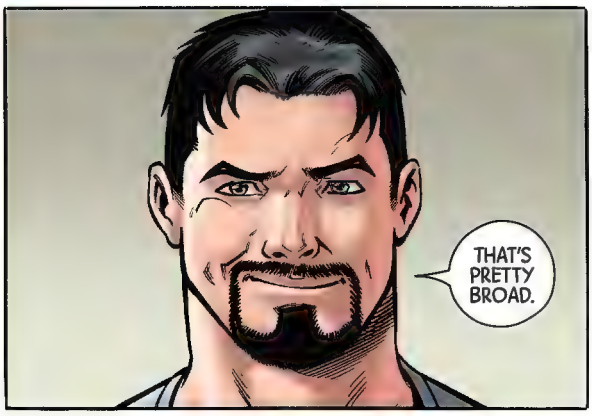
DID YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAID?
ARE YOU GOING TO SAVE ME?
I'M GOING TO STUDY YOU. I'M GOING TO WORK OUT HOW YOU'VE BECOME THIS, AND I'M GOING TO LEARN FROM IT.
IF I CAN REVERSE WHAT'S HAPPENED, THEN I WILL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I THOUGHT--?
THIS ISN'T FOR YOU. YOU'RE THIRTEEN! I'M ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MONSTERS SHOULD BE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD. TODDLE OFF DOWNSTAIRS.
HELLO, MATT.

HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE ME UP ON MY OFFER?
NO.

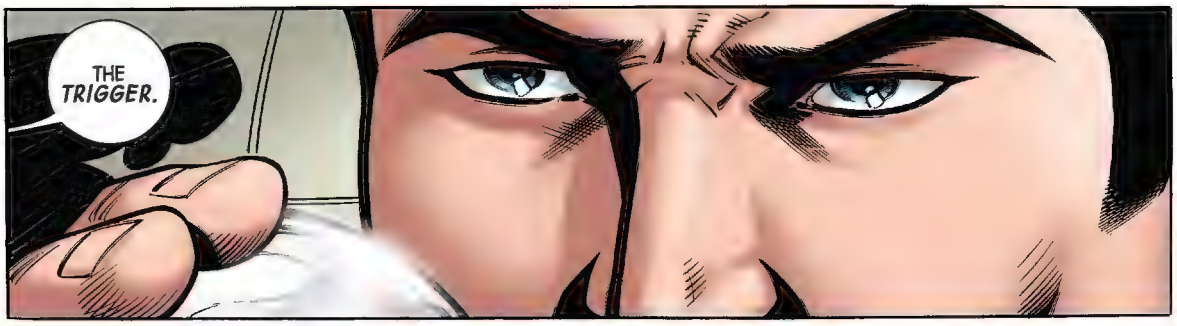

OF COURSE NOT. WHY WOULD YOU WANT YOUR SIGHT BACK? IT'S SO OVERRATED.
THE HIGH MORAL GROUND IS WAY MORE SATISFYING THAN ALL OF THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW AND GAZING UPON THE FACES OF YOUR LOVED ONES.
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

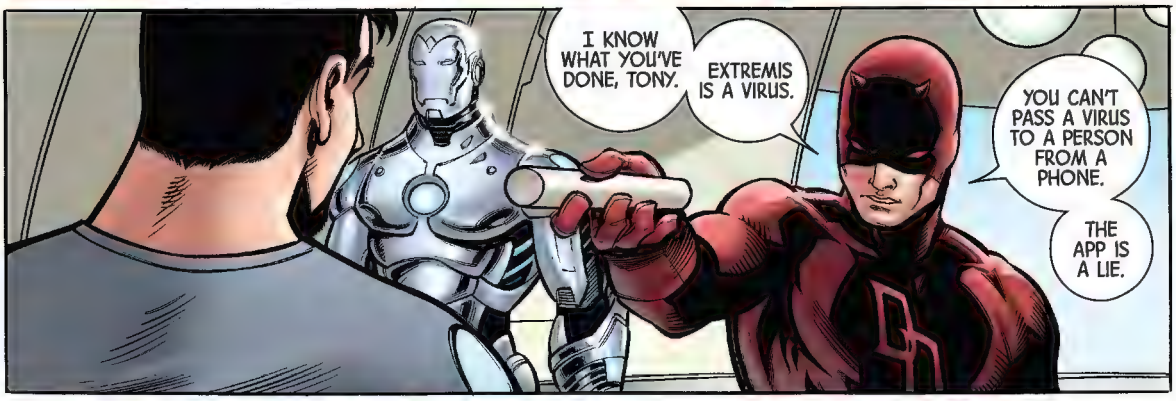

JUSTICE.




THAT'S PRETTY BROAD.

I HEARD IT.
HEARD *WHAT?*


THE TRIGGER.


I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, TONY.
EXTREMIS IS A VIRUS.
YOU CAN'T PASS A VIRUS TO A PERSON FROM A PHONE.
THE APP IS A LIE.

CAREFUL.

IT'S JUST AN INAUDIBLE DIGITAL TRIGGER-- INAUDIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT ME.
IT ACTIVATES A VIRUS THAT'S ALREADY PRESENT.
YOU'RE MAKING PEOPLE PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY PUT INSIDE THEM.

REALLY? HOW HAVE I DONE THAT? YOU'RE A LAWYER, MATT. DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF OR JUST WILD THEORIES?
I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE PROOF. I WORKED IT OUT. IT'S WHY YOU'RE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

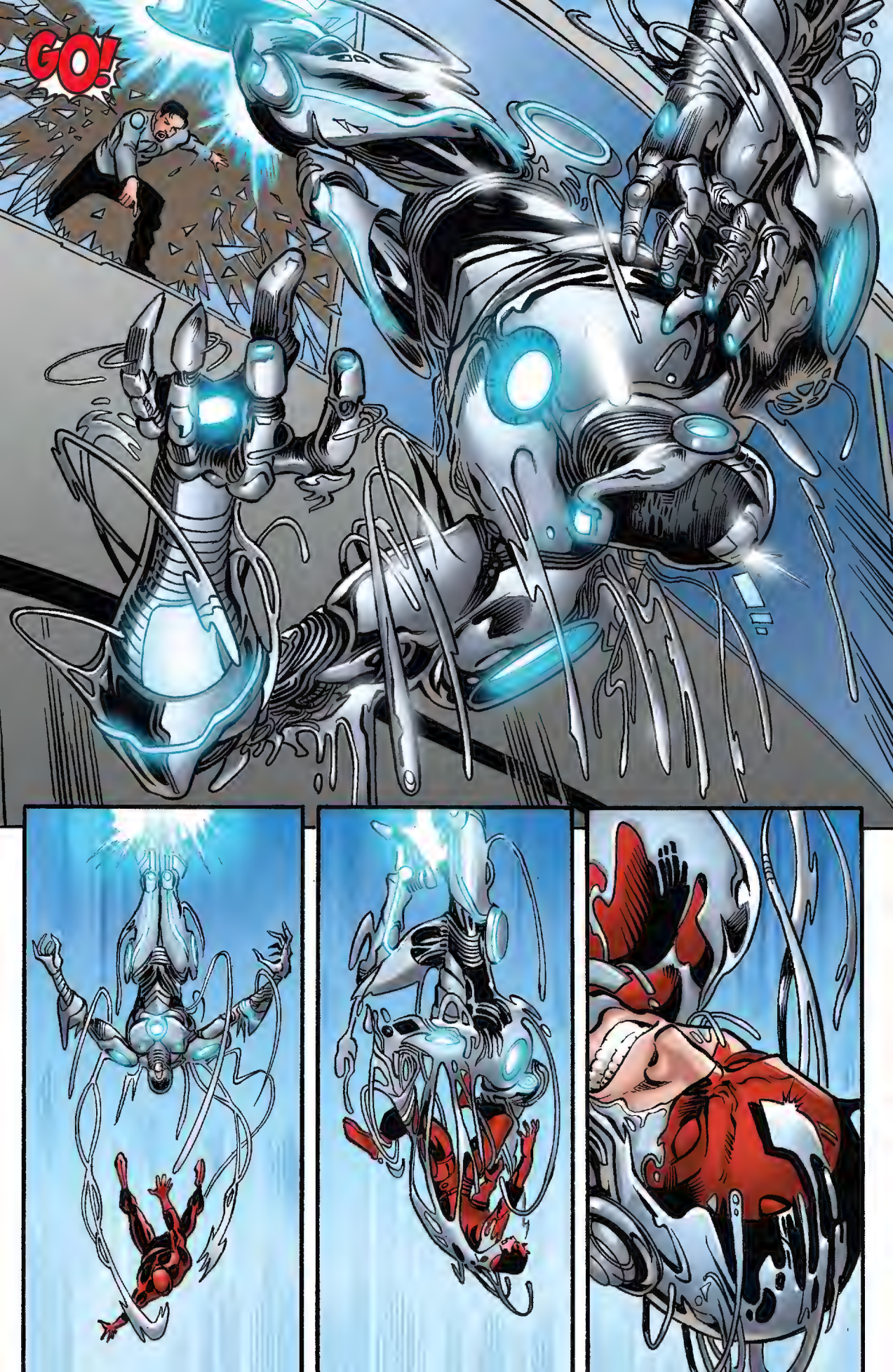
SAN FRANCISCO BANNED THE SALE OF BOTTLED WATER.
YOU'VE PUT YOUR VIRUS IN THE WATER SUPPLY.
CLNK

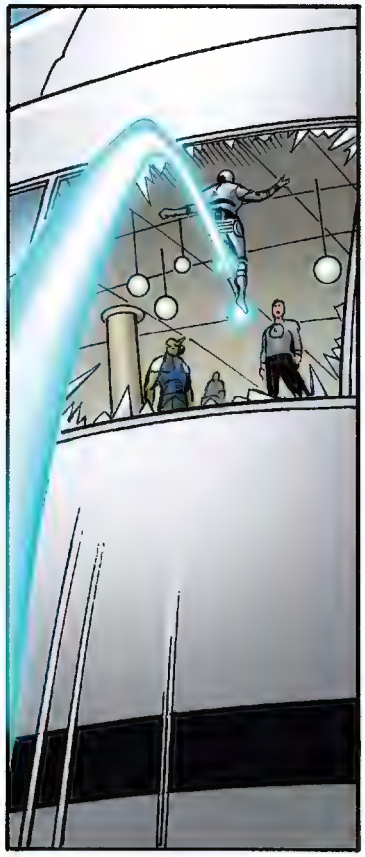
SO NOW WHAT, MATT?
NOW, I LET THE F.D.A. KNOW THAT YOU'VE PUT AN UNTESTED VIRUS IN A CITY'S WATER SUPPLY. I REPRESENT THEM AGAINST YOU. AND YOU GO TO JAIL FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

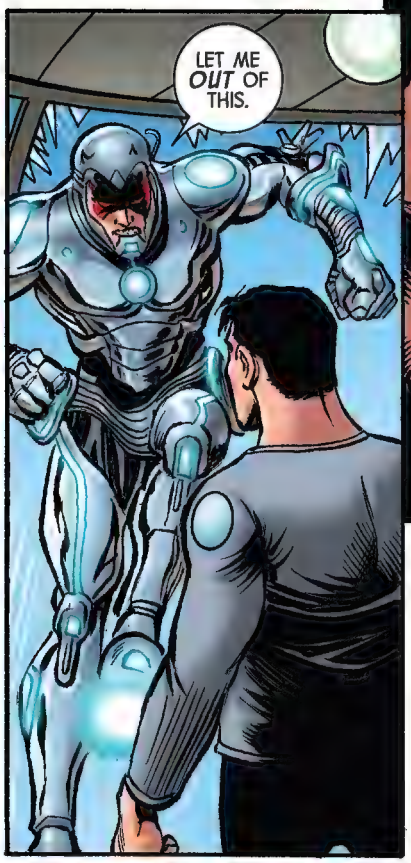
NO!
YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM AWAY! I NEED HIM!
WHAT THE--?
CRACK
GET OFF!
HNNGH!
THUD

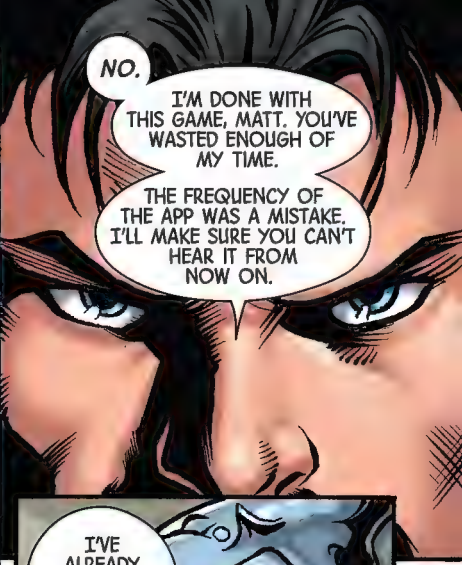
CRSSSHH

NO!


GO!




LET ME OUT OF THIS.


NO.
I'M DONE WITH THIS GAME, MATT. YOU'VE WASTED ENOUGH OF MY TIME.
THE FREQUENCY OF THE APP WAS A MISTAKE. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T HEAR IT FROM NOW ON.

I'VE ALREADY HEARD IT. YOU CAN'T UNDO THAT.

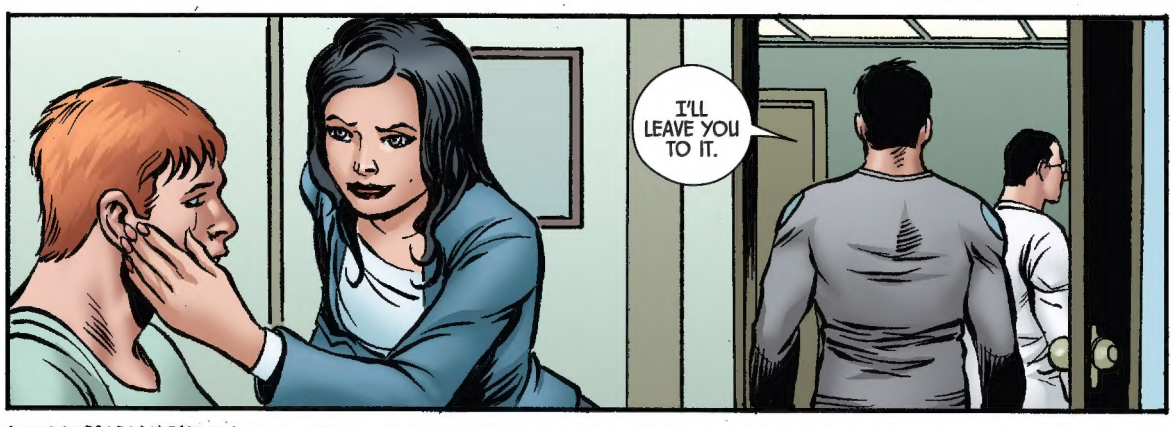
YES. I CAN.
STARK! YOU--

MMF--!

YOU STAY HERE.
I'M TAKING THIS MAN TO MY LABORATORY AND STRAPPING HIM TO A TABLE. I CAN'T HAVE A MONSTER STANDING NEXT TO ME WHILE I DO THIS.
THE WHOLE THING WOULD LOOK WAY TOO "MAD SCIENTIST."

STOP STRUGGLING IN THERE, MATT. YOU'LL JUST DO SOME NASTY LIGAMENT DAMAGE. YOU'RE MOVING WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
I WENT ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY WITH YOU. YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS. YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN. TOO RIGHTEOUS.
YOU WILL NEVER SHARE MY VISION FOR THE WORLD.
IT'S SAD. I AM BUILDING A BETTER WORLD.
BUT YOU CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE.
STARK! STOP THIS. WHATEVER THIS IS, JUST--
SHHHH. WE'RE GOING TO START OVER.
DEET
ZZZZT
NAAARGHH!
IT'S OKAY, MATT--

"--THIS NEVER HAPPENED."
HE'S COMING AROUND, MISTER STARK.
MATT? MATT, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
TONY...? IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, IT'S ME. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I...
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
I... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
YOU GAVE US A BIT OF A SCARE. WE WERE FIGHTING A MONSTER. YOU TOOK A NASTY HIT.
WHAT MONSTER? DID IT...?
HE LIVES AT MY PLACE NOW. IT'S A LONG STORY. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
A FEW DAYS. KIRSTEN'S BARELY LEFT YOUR--



THE SPECIALISTS TELL ME THAT, WITH A BRAIN INJURY LIKE THIS, YOU'LL NEED TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND SPEND AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS IN HERE. NO OUTSIDE STIMULI AT ALL.

BUT DON'T WORRY, MATT. IT'S ALL ON ME. ALL EXPENSES WILL BE COVERED AND I WILL HAVE MY VERY BEST PEOPLE LOOKING AFTER YOU.

YOU'RE IN *SAFE HANDS.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: